



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Announcing the 2013-2014 LEEC SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT (SIP)

This grant is being offered by the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC), which is under the direction of Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF). The LEEC is offering this grant in order to encourage sustainability initiatives in the EPA Region 6 area. Volunteer opportunities, educator workshops, and other projects that have a fundamental environmental education component and clear sustainability message will be considered. Projects are to involve environmental stewardship initiatives that focus on voluntary commitment, behavior, and action that result in environmental protection or improvement. Open to local education agencies (accredited public & private schools), colleges, universities, state education or environmental agencies, or 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations in **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas**. **Maximum award: \$5000. Round 1* Deadline: September 6, 2013** *Additional rounds will be offered as funding permits. Project funds are provided via a grant from the EPA Office of Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program to LDWF.

GUIDELINES: [2013-2014 LEEC Sustainability Initiative Project \(SIP\) Guidelines](#)

APPLICATION: [2013-2014 LEEC Sustainability Initiative Project \(SIP\) Application](#)

Contact Venise Ortego vortego@wlf.la.gov if you have questions about this grant opportunity.

"Give A Whoop!" Teacher Workshop—Saturday, September 14

Join us for a day of fun and learning at LDWF's beautiful Woodworth education facility south of Alexandria! Learn about the **WHOOPING CRANE** reintroduction program and the crane's amazing journey back from the brink of extinction! Geared toward middle/high school teachers and informal educators, this workshop will explain the complexities and challenges of the reintroduction program, demonstrate the new classroom lesson activities, and engage participants in field work related to habitat identification using GPS units.

Receive: 10 GLE aligned lessons, \$75 stipend, GPS unit for your classroom, breakfast and lunch, and up to 7.5 CLUs. Complete attached registration form and mail it, along with your \$25 check to be reimbursed, to: Carrie Salyers, LDWF, 102 Magnate Dr. Suite 201, Lafayette, LA 70508

Contact: Sue Ellen Lyons, slyons@holycrosstigers.com or Carrie Salyers csalyers@wlf.la.gov with questions.

Thank you, Chevron, for sponsoring this workshop!



GRANTS

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Announces 2013-2014 Healthy Communities Grant

*****NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS*****

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is now accepting applications for the 2013-2014 Healthy Communities Grant Program. A link to the grant guidelines and application are provided below and are also available on the KLB website, www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org. Applications must be submitted via email to info@keeplouisianabeautiful.org no later than 5:00 pm on **August 26, 2013**. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. KLB will make all funding decisions on or before September 6, 2013. The grant funds are to be utilized for projects taking place between September 3, 2013 and June 1, 2014. Direct questions to info@keeplouisianabeautiful.org or by calling the KLB office at 225-752-7446. [Click here for the HCG Application and Guidelines.](#)

Patagonia Grants Proposal—Deadline: August 31

Patagonia funds environmental work that approaches issues with a commitment to long-term change. Patagonia supports small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect our environment. They help local groups working to protect local habitat, and think the individual battles to protect a specific stand of forest, stretch of river or indigenous wild species are the most effective in raising more complicated issues – particularly those of biodiversity and ecosystem protection – in the public mind. Patagonia is looking for creative methods to engage communities to take action, with specific goals that go beyond education and awareness. <http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942> Typical Grant Range: up to \$12,000

Green Thumb Challenge Grant—Deadline: September 30

The Green Education Foundation (GEF) and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up on a funding opportunity for established youth garden projects nationwide. The organizations are calling on schools and youth groups to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$1,000 prize. The award is designed to support the continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success, and has impacted the lives of kids and their community. Please visit: <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenthumbchallengesub/green-thumb-challenge-winners>

Gulf of Mexico B-WET Funding Opportunity—Deadline: October 18

The National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region is now seeking proposals under the Gulf of Mexico NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (Gulf B-WET) Program. The full FY14 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) can be found at Grants.gov under funding opportunity number **NOAA-NMFS-SE-2014-2003813**. Applicants should apply through Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on October 18, 2013 to be considered for funding. Please see the FFO for all application details. The Gulf of Mexico B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) for students, related professional development for teachers, and help to support regional education and environmental priorities in the Gulf of Mexico.

EPA Providing Funding to Assist Small Water and Wastewater Systems

EPA will award up to \$12.7 million for projects to provide training and technical assistance to small public water systems, small publicly-owned wastewater systems, and communities served by onsite or decentralized wastewater systems, and private well owners. More than 97 percent of the nation's 157,000 public water systems serve fewer than 100,000 people and more than 80 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations. These challenges can include a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, management limitations and high staff turnover. The funding will help provide water system staff with training and tools to enhance system operations and management practices, achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and support EPA's continuing efforts to protect public health and promote sustainability in small communities. For more information:

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/sdwa/smallsystemsrfc.cfm

WORKSHOP & WEBINARS

EPA Hosting Webcast Series to Raise Awareness about Harmful Algal Blooms—August 20

EPA's Watershed Academy will host a webcast on the identification and monitoring of harmful algal blooms. Don Anderson from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Steve Morton from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will continue the series with a discussion of innovative methods for identifying these algae and their blooms, and how both government and research institutions and even the public can help to monitor their outbreak and spread. This webcast series is a part of a broader outreach effort this summer that aims to focus public attention on harmful algal blooms, which are associated with nutrient pollution, and can sicken people and pets, devastate aquatic ecosystems, and be a detriment to the economy. To register, visit www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts.

NGCP Webinar: Increasing Equity and Diversity in the STEM Workforce: Issue and Strategies

Thursday, September 26, 2013; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM PST/2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST

Gain a better understanding of the issues that impede efforts to diversify the STEM workforce and learn strategies that can promote equity, fairness, and diversity in their programs and professional interactions as role models. Dr. Kimberly Tanner, Director of the [Science Education Partnership and Assessment Laboratory \(SEPAL\)](#), will present findings from research on why talented individuals leave the biological sciences, as well as examples of successful efforts and problematic attempts towards diversifying the biological sciences. Kimberly Bryant, Founder of [BlackGirlsCode](#), will present information on the racial and socioeconomic digital divide and resources for computer science programs. [Click here to Register](#)

Plant ID Course Hosted by Acadiana RC&D Council—October 22-25

Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock, Senior Consultant of Biotic Consultants, Inc. will teach this intensive hands-on field course where the distinguishing characteristics of every plant encountered will be discussed along with habitat requirements. The official Fish and Wildlife Service wetland designation is also given for each plant; habitat and wildlife uses are noted and discussed among participants. Field sites are pre-selected to ensure optimal exposure to native plants. Class is limited to 25 attendees. **No prior botany experience is required. On-line Registration is now open.** Please visit our website at www.acadianarcd.com to register or call the Acadiana RC&D Council for more information at 337.262.1776. **Payment must be received by October 11, 2013 to guarantee registration.** A certificate will be awarded to each participant at the conclusion of the course.

Environmental Education: Designing Programs for Zoos & Aquariums

This online course was developed by Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) as part of the EECapacity Project to aid zoo and aquarium educators in developing new informal EE programs or improving existing programs. Several resources are provided throughout this course based on three areas of focus: EPA Environmental Priorities, NAAEE *Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education*, and target audiences from underserved populations. To best use the information and resources provided, participants can choose the priorities, guidelines, and target audiences applicable to their institutions and programs. This results in an eeEcology Map that includes goals for a current or future program, which can help with the development of an Environmental Literacy Plan. <http://www.aza.org/ProfTraining/detail.aspx?id=30372>

EPA Environmental Education Update: Register for the latest EE in Action Webinar

EPA's Office of Environmental Education hosts webinars for the EE community as part of an initiative called Environmental Education in Action (EE in Action). The next webinar for the Environmental Education in Action (EE in Action) is: Exploring Environmental Mentoring on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 from 4:00 to 5:15 pm EST. Mentoring relationships can have many positive benefits to both mentor and mentee. Join this conversation about how mentoring may enhance your environmental education work. Participants will hear about the best practices and challenges from the EnvironMentors program, as well as tips for those interested in offering mentoring at their school, organization or institution. Register for the webinar at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/436460561> Participants must dial-in for audio on this webinar: 866-528-5873, Conference ID: 24338234. For more information on the EE in Action webinar series and to view archived webinars, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-action>.

CONFERENCES

Keep Louisiana Beautiful's 10th Annual State Conference—September 19-20

KLB's 10th Annual State Conference will be held September 19-20 in downtown Baton Rouge at Kean Miller Law Firm. The event begins at noon on Thursday, September 19 with Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne as keynote. In celebration of KLB's 10th anniversary of permanent funds supporting community grants and awareness programs, the event is entitled "Driving Sustainability...for the Next Ten Years" and will celebrate past accomplishments and look toward a cleaner and more beautiful future. Sessions continue Friday morning and conclude with the Annual KLB Awards Luncheon at the Old Governor's Mansion. For registration information, please visit www.keepsouthernbeautiful.org.

Energy4me Education Programs at SPE Annual Teacher Conference & Exhibition

September 30—October 2 2013, Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana educators are invited to attend an energy education event for teachers or for high school students! For more information, see attached flyer or visit, <http://www.spe.org/atce/2013/>

LAGNIAPPE

Outdoor Wildlife Cam Captures a Veritable Bear Hoedown

[Click here: Outdoor Wildlife Cam Captures a Veritable Bear Hoedown](#)

Artifact Trove on Deepest Shipwreck Explored off US

A team of researchers [excavating a 19th-century shipwreck](#) in the Gulf of Mexico—the deepest wreck currently under excavation in U.S. waters—has found more than they had hoped for, including two other ships that appear to have been sunk at the same time. [Read more](#)

RESOURCES

What are your Climate Change EE Needs?

Do you address climate change through your EE programs? Are you thinking about incorporating climate change into your EE offerings? The Climate Change EE Professional Learning Community of the EECapacity Project has a survey to gather invaluable information that will be used to: identify existing climate change educational resources, identify gaps in climate change educational resources, and inform development of new climate change resources and professional development for informal and formal educators from a variety of disciplines. Survey will close August 30. Visit: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C3W8HPF>

HBO Seeks *Cool the Earth* Kids' Audition Videos—Deadline: August 12, 2013

HBO is looking for *Cool the Earth* kids (age 5-13) across the country to share their thoughts on the environment, specifically about the causes and results of climate change and solutions. Parents should submit a video audition file using Dropbox. [Read more](#)

Dream of a Nation Classroom Resources

This educator's web platform provides a range of resources, essays, and lesson plans aligned to state standards to help teachers effectively explore a range of critical civic issues in the classroom. In a review of the materials, a NAAEE staffer said, "...they have powerful and readable messages/activities--with quotes, articles, and sidebars from well known folks in the enviro field." [Read more](#)

RESOURCES, CONT.

Organisms in Motion: Practical Applications of Biological Research

[Organisms in Motion: Practical Applications of Biological Research](#) explores the ways in which a scientist is applying research on animal locomotion for practical human uses. This lesson includes a [video](#) with a biophysicist who studies jellyfish and schooling fish to design submarines and wind farms.

ScienceNet Links Updates

Recent [Science Update podcasts](#) include research on [regenerating plants](#) that were frozen in glaciers 400 years ago, [ancient lead pollution](#), using [precise numbers](#) to your advantage in negotiations, and a link between [music history and mathematical properties](#).

Properties of Soil Particles Visual Activity

Help students decipher the differences between clay, silt, and sand with our Properties of Soil Particles activity. Find the directions to this lesson here [website](#).

Beach Ball Quiz

Add a new spin to reviewing soil science facts with this Beach Ball Quiz activity. [Read more](#).

NGSS on NASA's *Climate Kids*

Climate Kids, NASA's educational website about climate change and sustainability, now features a new helpful tool for educators that identifies articles aligning with the Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers can search for articles and activities that match the standards' disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, or cross cutting concepts. Check it out at <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/science-standards>. *Climate Kids* target upper-elementary-age children.

Speaking on Science (SOS)

The SOS program for K-16 provides students exposure to the best researchers in the State by LA EPSCoR. The purpose of SOS is to increase public awareness of exciting research and development in Louisiana, spark the interest of students in science and engineering professions, and showcase the excellence of Louisiana's leading science and engineering faculty and professionals. Speakers are available free of charge to speak to students, educators, parents, and general audiences. <http://web.laregents.org/programs/epscor-programs/speaking-of-science-sos/>. For more information, call (225) 342-4253, or see the brochure and list of speakers: <http://web.laregents.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/2012-Brochure.pdf>

Deciphering the Air-sea Communication: Ocean Significantly Affects Long-term Climate Fluctuations

Scientists have investigated the role of heat exchange between ocean and atmosphere in long-term climate variability in the Atlantic. The scientists analyzed meteorological measurements and sea surface temperatures over the past 130 years. It was found that the ocean significantly affects long term climate fluctuations, while the seemingly chaotic atmosphere is mainly responsible for the shorter-term, year-to-year changes. [Read more](#)

Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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